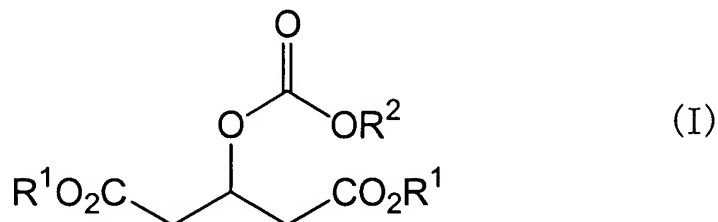


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A 3-substituted oxyglutaric acid diester compound represented by the formula (I):

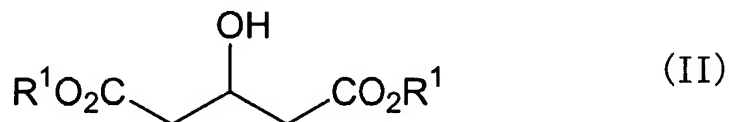


wherein R¹ may be the same or different from each other, and represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, R² represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group.

2. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R¹ is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms.
3. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R¹ is a methyl group or an ethyl group.
4. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R² is a group selected from the group consisting of a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted benzyl group, a phenethyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, an anthracenyl group and a thienyl group.

5. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R^2 is a group selected from the group consisting of a benzyl group, a 2-methylbenzyl group, a 3-methylbenzyl group, a 4-methylbenzyl group, a 2-methoxybenzyl group, a 3-methoxybenzyl group, a 4-methoxybenzyl group, a 2-chlorobenzyl group, a 3-chlorobenzyl group, a 4-chlorobenzyl group, a 2-bromobenzyl group, a 3-bromobenzyl group, a 4-bromobenzyl group, a 2-fluorobenzyl group, a 3-fluorobenzyl group, a 4-fluorobenzyl group, a 2-nitrobenzyl group, a 3-nitrobenzyl group, a 4-nitrobenzyl group, a 2-methoxybenzyl group, a 3-methoxybenzyl group, a 4-methoxybenzyl group, a t-butyl group, a methyl group, an isopropyl group, a phenyl group, a vinyl group and an allyl group.

6. (Original) A process for preparing a 3-substituted oxyglutaric acid diester compound according to Claim 1, which comprises reacting a 3-hydroxyglutaric acid diester represented by the formula (II):



wherein R^1 may be the same or different from each other, and represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group,

and a halogenoformate represented by the formula (III):



wherein X represents a halogen atom, R^2 represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group,
in the presence of a base.

7. (Original) The process according to Claim 6, wherein the halogenoformate is benzyl chloroformate.

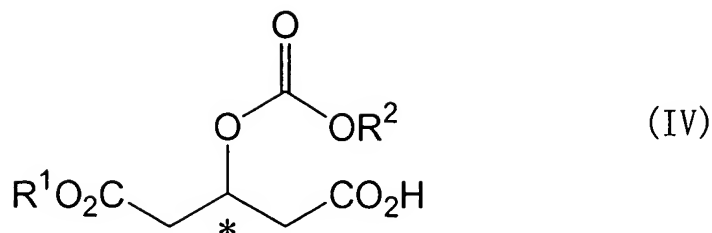
8. (Original) The process according to Claim 6, wherein the halogenoformate is used in an amount of 0.1 to 3.0 mols per mol of the 3-hydroxyglutaric acid diester.

9. (Original) The process according to Claim 6, wherein the base is an organic base.

10. (Original) The process according to Claim 6, wherein the organic base is a tertiary amine.

11. (Original) The process according to Claim 6, wherein the base is used in an amount of 1.0 to 3.0 mols per mol of the 3-hydroxyglutaric acid diester.

12. (Currently Amended) An optically active 3-substituted oxyglutaric acid monoester compound represented by the formula (IV):



wherein R¹ represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, R² represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group and * means an asymmetric carbon.

13. (Original) The compound according to Claim 12, wherein R¹ is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms.

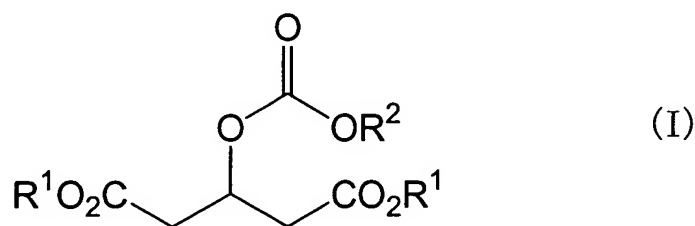
14. (Original) The compound according to Claim 12, wherein R¹ is a methyl group or an ethyl group.

15. (Original) The compound according to Claim 12, wherein R² is a group selected from the group consisting of a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted benzyl group, a phenethyl group, phenyl group, a naphthyl group, an anthracenyl group and a thienyl group.

16. (Original) The compound according to Claim 12, wherein R² is a group selected from the group consisting of a benzyl group, a 2-methylbenzyl group, a 3-methylbenzyl group, a 4-methylbenzyl group, a 2-methoxybenzyl group, a 3-methoxybenzyl group, a 4-methoxybenzyl

group, a 2-chlorobenzyl group, a 3-chlorobenzyl group, a 4-chlorobenzyl group, a 2-bromobenzyl group, a 3-bromobenzyl group, a 4-bromobenzyl group, a 2-fluorobenzyl group, a 3-fluorobenzyl group, a 4-fluorobenzyl group, a 2-nitrobenzyl group, a 3-nitrobenzyl group, a 4-nitrobenzyl group, a 2-methoxybenzyl group, a 3-methoxybenzyl group, a 4-methoxybenzyl group, a t-butyl group, a methyl group, an isopropyl group, a phenyl group, a vinyl group and an allyl group.

17. (Original) A process for preparing an optically active 3-substituted oxyglutaric acid monoester compound according to Claim 12, which comprises selectively hydrolyzing one of ester groups of a 3-substituted oxyglutaric acid diester compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein R^1 represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, R^2 represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, in the presence of a hydrolase.

18. (Original) The preparation process according to Claim 17, wherein the hydrolase is a protease, an esterase or a lipase.

19. (Original) The preparation process according to Claim 17, wherein the hydrolase is a lipase originated from *Candida antarctica*.

20. (Original) The preparation process according to Claim 17, wherein the hydrolysis is carried out in water, in a buffer or in an aqueous inorganic base solution.